

REMARKS

This Reply is organized under appropriate subheadings for the convenience of the Examiner.

Amendments to Claims 28 and 56 and New Claims 141-148

Claims 28 and 56 have been amended and new Claims 141-148 have been added to more clearly define that which Applicants regard as the invention. Support for amendments to the claims and new claims can be found in the specification and Sequence Listing. For example, page 3, line 21 through page 4, line 4 and page 20, lines 3-14 describe methods of identifying agents that alter NAD-dependent deacetylation activity of a Sir2 protein, thereby providing support for amendments to independent Claims 28 and 56. Page 40, lines 17-26 and page 41, lines 6-14 describe fragments of Sir2 proteins to include core domains of Sir2 as depicted as Figs. 2C, 6A, 14A and 19, and SEQ ID NOs: 27 and 28, thereby providing further support for amendments to independent Claims 28 and 56. Page 23, line 22 through page 24, line 8, describe agents identified by the claimed methods to include agonists; and page 24, lines 15-24, describe agents identified by the claimed methods to be antagonists, thereby providing support for new Claims 141-148. No new matter has been added in the amendments to Claims 28 and 56 and new Claims 141-148. Entry is requested.

Statement of the Substance of the Interview on May 11, 2011

The substance of the interview conducted on May 11, 2011, concerned an Office Action mailed from the USPTO on October 13, 2010 and a Reply filed to the Office Action on March 14, 2011.

At the beginning of the interview, Dr. Guarente described embodiments of Applicants' invention, including methods to expand the lifespan of an organism and methods of identifying agents that alter NAD-dependent deacetylation activity of Sir2. Dr. Guarente also described advantages of methods directed to identifying agents that alter NAD-dependent deacetylation activity of Sir2.

Applicants' Attorney, Mary K. Murray, discussed the objections to the specification in view of the use of trademarks and the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e). The

Examiner appeared to agree that amendments to the specification obviated the objection for the use of trademarks and that the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) was properly made.

Applicants' Attorney then discussed the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, specifically the written description rejection of Claims 28-41 and 56-64. The Examiner stated that he would permit Applicants to amend the claims in the current application to be directed to the subject matter of a nonelected invention in a Restriction Requirement mailed from the USPTO on March 9, 2010, specifically, claims directed to methods of identifying agents that alter NAD-dependent deacetylation activity of a Sir2 protein. The Examiner stated that the filing of such amendments should be consistent with amendments, as appropriate, to the claims in the related U.S. Application No. 12/209,847, which was also interviewed on May 11, 2011.

Applicants agreed to incorporate the amendments discussed in the related U.S. Application No. 12/209,847, and amend the current claims in the above-referenced application to be directed to methods to identifying agents that alter NAD-dependent deacetylation activity of Sir2.

At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner stated he would mail a summary of the interview. Applicants' respectfully request the Examiner provide a written summary of the interview conducted on May 11, 2011.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

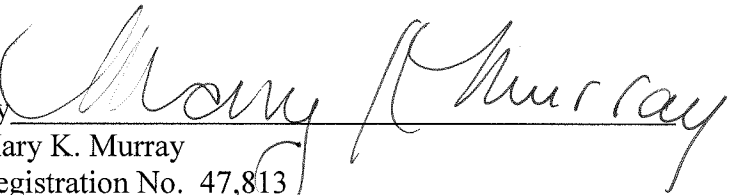
Applicants are filing with the Reply a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS). Entry of the SIDS is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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